

**Clean Copy of Substitute Specification**

**METHOD FOR PRODUCING L-AMINO ACID USING METHYLOTROPH**

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

**Technical Field of the Invention**

[0001] The present invention relates to a method for producing an L-amino acid, and a bacterium used therefor. More precisely, the present invention relates to a methane-utilizing bacterium having improved L-amino acid producing ability and a method for producing an L-amino acid utilizing the bacterium.

**Description of the Related Art**

[0002] Conventionally, L-amino acids such as L-lysine, L-glutamic acid, L-threonine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine, L-valine and L-phenylalanine are produced by fermentation utilizing coryneform bacteria belonging to the genus *Brevibacterium*, *Corynebacterium* or *Microbacterium* (Amino Acid Fermentation, the Japan Scientific Societies Press [Gakkai Shuppan Center], pp.195-215, 1986). Furthermore, microorganisms of the genus *Bacillus*, *Streptomyces*, *Penicillium* (U.S. Patent No. 3,220,929), *Pseudomonas*, *Arthrobacter*, *Serratia*, *Aerobacter*, *Candida* (U.S. Patent No. 3,563,857), *Escherichia* (Japanese Patent Laid-open (Kokai) No. 5-244970) and the like can also be utilized in the production of L-amino acids.

[0003] To improve productivity of these microorganisms, bacterial strains isolated from nature, or artificial mutants of the bacterial strains, have been used. Furthermore, various techniques have been disclosed for increasing L-amino acid producing ability by enhancing L-amino acid biosynthesis enzymes using recombinant DNA techniques (US Patents 4,278,765, 4,346,170 and 6,040,160).